

Appln. No. 10/748,047

Attorney Docket No. 5709-168

I. Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended): A weatherstrip for a motor vehicle comprising, in combination,

[[a]] an enlongate metal carrier having a first longitudinally-extending region of a first flexibility extending longitudinally along said weatherstrip and a second longitudinally-extending region adjacent said first region of a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility, adjacent said first region and extending longitudinally along said weatherstrip, and

an elastomeric material disposed about said carrier and including at least one sealing feature.

2. (Original): The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is fabricated of steel or aluminum.

3. (Original): The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said first region includes a plurality of apertures disposed generally centrally along said metal carrier.

4. (Original): The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said second region includes a plurality of transverse slits.

5. (Original): The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.

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6. (Original): The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is U-shaped in cross-section and a portion of said elastomeric material defines a corresponding U-shape.

7. (Original): The weatherstrip of claim 1 wherein said metal carrier is a continuous, unitary piece.

8. (Currently Amended): A sealing strip for a motor vehicle comprising, in combination,

[[a]] an elongate U-shaped carrier having a first ~~longitudinally extending~~ region of a first flexibility extending longitudinally along said carrier and a second ~~longitudinally extending~~ region adjacent said first region of a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility and extending longitudinally along said carrier, and

an elastomeric material disposed about said carrier and including at least one feature adapted to provide a seal against a vehicle component.

9. (Previously Presented): The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said U-shaped carrier is fabricated of steel or aluminum.

10. (Previously Presented): The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said first region includes a plurality of apertures disposed generally centrally along said U-shaped carrier.

11. (Previously Presented): The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said second region includes a plurality of transverse slits.

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12. (Previously Presented): The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.

13. (Previously Presented): The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said sealing feature includes a generally circular, hollow member.

14. (Previously Presented): The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein a portion of said elastomeric material defines a shape corresponding to said U-shaped carrier.

15. (Currently Amended): A weatherstrip for a motor vehicle comprising, in combination,

[[a]] an elongate hybrid carrier having a first longitudinally extending region of a first flexibility extending longitudinally along said weatherstrip and a second longitudinally extending region adjacent said first region of a second flexibility distinct from said first flexibility and extending longitudinally along said weatherstrip, said first and said second regions having substantially uniform flexibility along their respective lengths and

an elastomeric sealing material encapsulating said carrier, said material defining at least one longitudinally extending sealing feature.

16. (Original): The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said hybrid carrier is fabricated of metal.

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17. (Original): The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said first region includes a plurality of apertures disposed generally centrally along said hybrid carrier.

18. (Original): The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said second region includes a plurality of transverse slits.

19. (Original): The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said sealing feature includes a pair of flanges.

20. (Original): The weatherstrip of claim 15 wherein said hybrid carrier is U-shaped in cross-section and said elastomeric material defines a corresponding U-shape.

21. (Previously Presented): The sealing strip for a motor vehicle of claim 8 wherein said first and said second regions have substantially uniform flexibility along their respective lengths.

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